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REGIONAL COOPERATION

France, Morocco* and Spain: draft resolution

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 22 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993 and 1995/48 of 27 July 1995,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly declared the period 1991-2000 the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 1/ regarding measures to

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, Texts adopted by the Assembly, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Referring to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held at Barcelona in November 1995 and to the work programme annexed thereto, which aims in the field of transport at the connection of the Mediterranean networks to the trans-European network so as to ensure their interoperability,

Referring also to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the conference on transport in the Mediterranean held in January 1997 and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Conference held at Helsinki in June 1997 on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the permanent link,

Taking note of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa [2] in accordance with resolution 1995/48,

Also taking note of the conclusions of the second and third meetings of the Western Mediterranean transport group, held respectively at Rabat in September 1995 and at Madrid in January 1997, which included the permanent link among the priority corridors in the extension of the trans-European network,

1. Welcomes the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar established between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

2. Also welcomes the organization under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Tunnelling Association of two seminars held at Tarifa, Spain, in February 1997, on the suitability of tunnel boring machines for the project, and at Vienna in April 1997, on the methodology for estimating the cost of tunnels;

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[2] E/1997/51.

3. Commends the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the work done in preparing the project follow-up report requested by the Council in its resolution 1995/48, even though necessary resources were not forthcoming from the General Assembly;

4. Repeats its invitation to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to non-governmental organizations, including in particular the International Tunnelling Association and the International Union of Railways, to participate in the studies and work on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

5. Also repeats its invitation to the European Commission to consider the possibility of participating in the consolidation of the studies and the development of the project both institutionally and financially;

6. Requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, necessary resources, within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe in order to enable them to carry out the above-mentioned activities.